



LifeWatch ERIC e-Science Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research to support Agroecology

José Manuel Ávila Castuera, PhD

AgroEcology Technical Assistant LifeWatch ERIC - ICT Core

Juan Miguel González-Aranda, PhD

LifeWatch ERIC Chief Technology Officer ERIC FORUM Executive Board Member

ALL-Ready – 1st Pilot Network Meeting 13th December 2021







functions and services ...



... in **support** of our **societies** to address the **key planetary challenges**.







LifeWatch ERIC's goal is to be a worldwide provider of content and services for communities on Ecological Science by:

- Offering **new opportunities for large**scale scientific development;
- Supporting **knowledge-based decisionmaking** for biodiversity and ecosystem management;
- Providing training, dissemination and awareness programmes.



How we work Common Facilities



How we work | National Nodes



What we provide | FAIR DATA

- Find the data and metadata you are looking for, thanks to our **Catalogue of resources**;
- Freely access, use and share large datasets of different types and sources;
- Work with interoperable data, thanks to our standards, thesauri and ontologies;
- Reuse and combine data for different research questions, generating new services and meeting community standards.



What we provide | VREs

A Virtual Research Environment or Virtual Lab is a web-based workspace providing seamless access to all services a data-user needs to do data-related work and collaborate with the community to create new knowledge.

A VRE facilitate working with data in a **more efficient way** and improve collaboration between different users (LLs, RIs, end-users, policy-makers, citizens, etc.). Usually includes:

- Data sources (own data, third-parties' data sources)
- Centralized access to data
- Data processing (development environment)
- Visualization of data
- Sharing of results with others
- Other e-services

The VRE can be used to answer scientific and managerial questions, in this case, applied to **agroecology**



What we provide | VREs Non Indigenous Invasive Species

- Boost the integration of tools & services into the LifeWatch ERIC web portal;
- Focus on a major scientific issue in biodiversity and ecosystem research with relevant socio-economic implications;
- Produce new and synthetic knowledge needed by institutions, administrations and managers to give solutions to major environmental problems at different scales;

Internal joint initiative



LifeWatch ERIC needs to boost its construction and to engage users in developing their research activities into the Virtual Research Environments of the e-Science Infrastructures, by clearly demonstrating and documenting the added value these new technologies bring to address challenging hot topics.

LIFeWatch ERIC has started an Internal Joint Initiative with the exact aim of addressing these needs and reinforcing the positioning of LIFeWatch ERIC within the biodiversity and ecosystem scientific community. As a subject for the demonstration case, LifeWatch ERIC has selected non-indigenous and invasive species (NIS).

If you are interested in the III and want to join us on the validation cases, just drop us an e-mail service.centre[at]lifewatch.eu.

Validation cases

Nine validation cases have been agreed on by the scientific community representatives focusing on various aspects of NIS invasion, stemming from the desire of the infrastructure to use the most participative interdisciplinary approach to investigate this wide topic.

As an immediate result of this collaboration, scientists and ICT experts jointly outlined a conceptual paper and designed a workflow that will serve as a living timeline along which different e-tools have to be developed to help address relevant issues related to NIS for scientists, managers, decision-makers and society.

1. Combining Modeling and remote sensing techniques to monitor and control the spread of invasive species; the case of Allanthus altissima

2. European ARMS programme: long-term monitoring of hard-bottom communities for invasive marine species

3. Risk assessment of NIS introduction and establishment, habitat vulnerability to NIS and estimation of the impact on Biotopes

A. Functional biogeography of invasive species: the case of two widely-distributed omnivorous crustaceans

5. Successive invasions in the Mediterranean Sea: How the history of Caulerpa taxifolia can inform on the new invaders Caulerpa racernosa and Rugulopteryx okamurae

Internal Joint Initiative

Rationale & Objectives Framework & Knowledge Map Validation Cases Dahlem Type Workshops Rome, 02-05/12/2019 Seville, 14-18/10/2019 Collaborative Space

Link to workshop

What we provide | VREs Non Indigenous Invasive Species



AgroEcology Virtual Lab

EUROPE ALL-Ready: The European Agroecology Living Lab and Research Infrastructure Network: Preparation Phase

Readv

	2								
N°	Participant organisation name (Acronym)	Country							
1	Institut national de recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et	France							
	l'Environnement (INRAE)								
2	Aarhus Universitet (AU)	Denmark							
3	Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft (OMKI)	Hungary							
4	Johann Heinrich Von Thuenen-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut Fuer	Germany							
	Laendliche Raeume, Wald Und Fischerei (TI)								
5	European Network Of Living Labs Ivzw (ENoLL)	Belgium							
6	Biosense Institute - Research And Development Institute For Information	Serbia							
	Technologies In Biosystems (BIOS)								
7	Fibl Europe - Forschungsinstitutfur Biologischen Landbau In Europa (FiBL	Belgium							
	Europe)								
8	Ecologic Institut gemeinnützige Gmbh (Ecologic)	Germany							
9	European Landowners Organization (ELO)	Belgium							
10	Agriculture And Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	Canada							
11	Eigen Vermogen Van Het Instituut Voor Landbouw- En Visserijonderzoek	Belgium							
	(EVILVO)								
12	E-Science European Infrastructure For Biodiversity And Ecosystem Research	Spain							
	(LifeWatch ERIC)								
13	The University of Sheffield (ISF)	United Kingdom							

LAC

EU-CELAC ResInfra: Towards a new EU-CELAC partnership in Research Infrastructure

No	Name	Short na	Short name		Country		ResInfra		
1	MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACION Y UNIVERSIDADES	MICINN			Spain				
2	MINISTERIO DE EDUCACION Y CULTURA	MEC			Uruguay	-			
3	DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FUER LUFT - UND RAUMFAHRT EV	DLR AEI FCT		Germany	-				
4	AGENCIA ESTATAL DE INVESTIGACION			Spain	Ī				
5	FUNDACAO PARA A CIENCIA E A TECNOLOGIA			Portugal	Ī	1			
6	SECRETARIA DE GOBIERNO DE CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA E INNOVACIÓN PRODUCTIVA	SGCTEIP	11	SOCI INOV EMPI	EDADE PORTUGU /ACAO CONSULTA RESARIAL E FOME /ACAO SA	ESA DE DORIA ENTO DA	SPI	Portugal	
7	CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	CNR	12	CON	SELHO NACIONAL	DE	CNPO	Brazil	
8	CONSEJO NACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGIA	CONACY		TECN	DLOGICO				
9	Teknologian tutkimuskeskus VTT Oy	VTT	13	Invata	amantului Superior, a	a Cercetarii,	UEFISCDI	Romania	
	COMISION NACIONAL DE		CONICYT 14 Ministe Rica		arii si Inovarii				
10	INVESTIGACION CIENTIFICA Y TECNOLOGICA	CONICYT			terio de Ciencia y Tecnologia de Costa		MICITT	Costa Rica	
			15	DEPA CIEN - COI	ARTAMENTO ADM CIA, TECNOLOGI LCIENCIAS	INISTRATIVO DE A E INNOVACION	COLCIENCIAS	Colombia	
			16 INSTRUCT-ERIC				INSTRUCT-ERIC	United Kingdon	
			17	E-SC INFR AND	IENCE EUROPEAN ASTRUCTURE FOI ECOSYSTEM RESI	r BIODIVERSITY EARCH	LIFEWATCH	Spain	
-				CENT ENER TECN	TRO DE INVESTIGA RGETICAS, MEDIO NOLOGICAS-CIEM	ACIONES AMBIENTALES Y AT	CIEMAT	Spain	

https://resinfra-eulac.eu/

https://www.all-ready-project.eu/

AgroEcology Virtual Lab | ALL-Ready

Taking into consideration that:

- RIs and LLs are instruments contributing to amplifying the transition to agroecology in Europe.
- ALL-Ready will map and analysis **what works**, where and why.
- Pilot network will be the basis for sharing of knowledge and data as well as capacity building.

Pilot Network						
RIs	5		l	Ls		
	١	/irtual Lab: Data share & Knowledge creation				

Agroecology Virtual Lab will facilitate the access to agroecological-related information in a safe, secured and trustworthy system



AgroEcology Virtual Lab

Strategic partner INIA-CSIC

The National Centre for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA) of Spanish Research Council (CSIC) has a group especially focused in the research on **the environmental impacts of sustainable agricultural practices** at the farm and landscape levels.

Contributing to build a Virtual Lab to:

- Analyze the environmental impacts of different territorial planning and agri-food scenarios at different geographical scales for estimating their individual benefits and associated effects (both positive and negative).
- Ascertain **synergies and trade-offs between different agronomic practices** devoted to the adaptation and mitigation of **climate change**.
- Seeking for sustainable technological approaches to close the flow of nutrients in a given territory, facilitating agroecological transitions.





AgroEcology Virtual Lab

Strategic partner AGAPA

Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía, AGAPA, (Agency for the management of Agriculture and Fisheries of Andalusia) is a public agency that falls under the regional Government of Andalusia (Spain).

It bases its activity on the **development of policies** related to the **agricultural**, **livestock**, **fishing and rural development sectors** which are of enormous importance both in EU policies and with regards to cooperation with third parties.

Currently the Agency is involved in a project with **LifeWatch ERIC** related to the Agriculture Digitalisation, in order to measure the impact of agriculture activities on biodiversity and the ecosystems services.











AgroEcology Virtual Lab | ALL-Ready

Added-value:

- First, a tool for **sharing of knowledge** and **data** thereby strengthening the agroecology R&I ecosystem in Europe which is a prerequisite for upscaling across Europe.
- **Knowledge management** and **knowledge hub** allowing to the final user to identify the source and link with the specific context where the agroecological knowledge has been developed.
- Legitimate system for the accountability of the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of agroecology practices, using LifeBlock.
- Knowledge based decision support system for **policymakers** (e.g. for incentivization systems).
- Knowledge based decision support system for **funders**.
- Potential to help **farmers** and farmer associations
- Possibility to have services for **citizen science**.





What we provide | Technology layer

- Making data, services and VRE accessible and usable in a FAIR optics;
- Engaging, tracking, accounting and securing biodiversity and ecosystem resources & services provision, through the LifeWatch ERIC blockchain platform;
- Providing cloud & computational power, and storage capacity to create models for future scenarios;
- Supporting smart ecosystem management in the context of climate change, also thanks to the application of innovative technologies like deep learning and artificial intelligence.



What we provide | Training & Citizen science

Empower citizens and youth to engage with science and contribute to future developments and their own well-being:

- Master and PhD programmes;
- Summer schools;
- Workshops and webinars;
- Training portals and programmes on key scientific issues;
- Serious (scientific) games;
- Educational Comics.









Thanks!

Dr. José Manuel Ávila Castuera Agroecology Technical Expert – ICT Core josem.avila@lifewatch.eu

Dr. Juan Miguel González-Aranda LifeWatch ERIC Chief Technology Officer <u>cto@lifewatch.eu</u>

